



# News Release

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## ***Charter One Bank Named SBA Lender of the Year***

**Detroit, Michigan** – The U.S. Small Business Administration's Michigan District Office presented its FY 2005 lender awards at the Eighth Annual Michigan SBA Lenders' Conference held in Lansing on March 8. **Charter One Bank** was named Michigan **Lender of the Year**, SBA's award for the best overall performance. Charter One Bank approved 971 SBA guaranty loans worth more than \$54.8 million in FY 2005. This is more loans than any lender has ever done in Michigan.

"In FY 2005, the Michigan District Office guaranteed 3,135 loans worth almost \$561 million. This set an all-time record for SBA lending in Michigan for the fourth year in a row. This achievement can be directly attributed to the outstanding support of our lending partners. Although it was difficult to select one lender from this year's group, Charter One Bank turned in an exceptional performance in all areas and it has also done a tremendous job of marketing our programs," said Richard Temkin, Michigan District Director of SBA. Other award winners included:

- **504 Lender of the Year - Fifth Third Bank**  
In recognition of the best overall support of SBA's 504 loan program. Fifth Third Bank completed 24 504 deals with five Michigan certified development companies last year. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row Fifth Third Bank has won this award.
- **PLP Lender of the Year – Republic Bank**  
The most loans approved by a preferred lender. Preferred lenders enjoy full delegation of lending authority. Republic Bank approved 72 PLP loans.
- **Community Lender of the Year – Franklin Bank**  
Best overall performance among Michigan-based, non-PLP lenders. Franklin Bank had 24 SBA loans last year.
- **Business Development Lender of the Year – Northwestern Bank**  
Award for the lender which did at least 10 SBA deals in FY 2005 and had the largest percentage increase of approvals. Northwestern Bank's loans jumped from 10 in FY 2004 to 18 in FY 2005, an increase of 80%.
- **SBAExpress Lender of the Year – Charter One Bank**  
Award for the lender which had the most SBAExpress loans. Charter One Bank approved 971 loans, more than double the previous record in this category.
- **New Markets Lender of the Year – Chase**  
Best overall performance in lending to new markets (minorities, women, and veterans).

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The benefits of SBA's loan programs are felt state-wide as small businesses in 447 cities within 78 counties received an SBA guaranty loan in FY 2005.

*For more information, please call the Michigan District Office at (313) 226-6075 x279 or visit our Web page at <http://www.sba.gov>.*

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